

INTIMATIONS

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DINNENFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.
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DINNENFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.
For Heartburn and Headache.

DINNENFORD'S FLUID MAGNESIA.
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that which occurred in China this year. Should any attempt at organized lawlessness be made it would be speedily suppressed by the Government, which is not only strong enough to enforce the law but has the will to do so and would not, like the Government of China, secretly sympathize with the rioters.

The second question, that of the likelihood of Christianity being adopted as the national religion of Japan, is treated, not without insight, but at the same time with a certain flippancy. Mr. Monroe, in his recently published work on "Christianity in Japan," reviewed in these columns a few days ago, has a chapter on "Christianity in Japan," showing how it is that the difficulties which arise from the propagation of the faith in China find no counterpart in Japan. In the course of his remarks Mr. Monroe says that the many pleasing spectacles which a visit to that tourist's paradise always affords perhaps none leaves a more agreeable impression than the decorous worship of large Japanese congregations conducted entirely by natives; and the vernacular religious press is now a recognized factor in the social system. Mr. Monroe does not present any forecast of the future of Christianity in Japan, but he has evidently been deeply impressed with what he has seen of the results of missionary labour in that country.

The Times correspondent, on the other hand, takes the negative view, looking on what has not been accomplished rather than on what has been. The stream of the common people, he says, does not appear to have been even diverted from its crumbling, but still hallowed, shrine. "Not one whit" is rather a strong expression which the circumstances do not justify. The number of Christians is as yet insignificant as compared with that of adherents of Buddhism, but they form a vigorous and ever increasing body, and are daily making their influence more felt in the national life. Whether Christianity may ultimately become the dominant religion of the country is a subject on which it would be bold to venture an opinion, but no observer, even standing at a distance and having only the daily record of the foreign press as his medium of vision, can fail to be struck by the influence Christianity seems already to have exercised and which has affected even Buddhism itself. Judging the result of missionary effort in Japan, not by the number of converts made, but by the effect it has had on the national thought and ideals of character, it cannot be said to have resulted in failure.

The establishment of the London Chamber of Arbitration is an interesting experiment in the cheap and speedy settlement of trade disputes. Before the Chamber opened no fewer than 1,200 applications for the appointment of arbitrators had already been received, a fact which is put forward as some indication of the necessity evidently felt in the city for such an institution. Every one has, no doubt, had a horror of a law suit, but points of difference necessarily arise in commercial life which have to be settled by some means. Different trade organizations and commercial bodies have for a long period past provided facilities for the settlement of disputes amongst their members by arbitration, but in a large proportion of cases arising between persons not belonging to such organizations these facilities have not been available and recourse to the courts of law has been the only means of determining the matters at issue. But law is both expensive and slow, and the rules of legal procedure are often a hindrance rather than a help in arriving at the real facts. The London Chamber of Arbitration has therefore been formed with the object of providing facilities for disputants wishing to settle their differences without recourse to litigation, especially such trade disputes as can best be dealt with by experienced men of business. The institution has been established by the Corporation of the City of London and the arbitrators are to be nominated by the Chamber of Commerce and appointed by the Corporation. The sittings of the Chamber will be held daily. It is expected that many of the cases which will be brought for arbitration will be satisfactorily disposed of in two hours, and the Corporation will provide accommodation for several cases to be heard concurrently, so as to avoid the necessity of awaiting the termination of protracted cases. Parties may employ counsel if they so desire, but waste of time in displays of forensic eloquence is not to be encouraged. The Chamber fee is to be one guinea and the arbitrator's fee two guineas, and no further expense need be incurred in simple cases occupying but a short sitting. Two proceedings are to be private and confidential, a point of considerable importance in cases involving disclosure of trade secrets. A panel of arbitrators, which is to include about a thousand names, is being prepared and it is hoped that nomination to the office will be regarded as an honourable distinction.

The working of the London Chamber of Arbitration will be watched with interest, and if successful it will probably result in a reformation of the law in favour of compulsory arbitration in certain properly defined cases where the ascertaining of facts and not an interpretation of the law is the main object. In that case the alteration of the law might probably, in course of time be extended to this colony. One of the expressed objects of the Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce is to receive references and to arbitrate between disputants, and a fair proportion of commercial cases, as compared with the total number coming before the courts, are settled by this means. The by-laws provide that the Committee of the Chamber shall appoint every year five from their number, three of whom in regular succession shall be the Acting Committee to decide on all cases submitted to the arbitration of the Chamber, and that the members of the Arbitration Committee shall be entitled to a fee of not less than \$5 each, and not more than \$20 each, and the Chamber to a fee in addition of not less than \$10 and not more than \$100, on every case submitted, the amount to be regulated according to the importance of the case and the time occupied therein. A case is not to be proceeded with

unless the parties subscribe to a bond making the award a rule of the Supreme Court, and no dispute is to be taken cognizance of unless one of the parties interested therein be a member of the Chamber. It will be seen therefore that the facilities for arbitration in this Colony, though satisfactory so far as they go, are too limited to be availed of generally. Should the London Chamber of Arbitration be successful, doubtless similar institutions will be established in all the leading commercial centres at home, and our local Chamber of Commerce may perhaps then see its way to promote some scheme in extension of the system of arbitration in Hongkong. Where parties are desirous of submitting their disputes to arbitration there is under existing circumstances no great difficulty in the way, but the casually appointed arbitrators with whom they have to be content cannot command the same confidence as persons occupying a quasi-official position and owing responsibility to a regularly organized body exercising a general control over arbitration proceedings.

H.M.S. Swift arrived here from Canton yesterday.

The P. & O. steamer Lombardy left Bombay on the 5th inst. for this port.

Admiral Sir E. R. Fremantle, who went to Canton the other day, has returned.

The P. & O. steamer Guelion left Singapore at 1 p.m. on the 5th inst. for this port.

There will be a celebration of Holy Communion in the Peak Church to-morrow at 8 a.m.

The O. & S. steamer Belphe with mails, &c. from San Francisco to the 15th inst., has arrived at Yokohama, and will leave for this port this morning.

The Société Française des Charbonnages de Tonkin, we hear, to be reconstructed. At present the shares of the company are quoted nominal.

We have to acknowledge receipt from Messrs. Dowell, O'Neill & Co. of the Standard Life Assurance Company's useful desk diary, interleaved with blank paper and containing a fortnight on each page.

The Siam Free Press says the agents of the Kaitum Mission of Siam have presented a telegram from London advising that the capital of the working company will be offered for public subscription by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank in January.

To-morrow morning, between 9 and 10.30 o'clock, the steam launch Dainty, carrying the British flag, will all alongside any vessel lying at the wharf, to either receive or deliver to 11 a.m. service at St. Peter's (Siam's) church, returning about 12.30.

Sixteen native hives in course of construction by the China Paper Mill Company at Shanghai called during rather a fresh blow on the 5th inst., injuring two of the workmen, who when they left their duties for the hospital, while the other had his right arm badly broken.

A new hospital is nearing completion at Hainan. The building is erected on ground adjoining the Hainan Convent and Hospital, which was the gift of the Mother Superior, and half the expenses of erection and furnishing are to be borne by the Italian mission. The wards on the second floor are reserved for foreign patients.

A woman residing a few miles south of Shanghai recently gave birth to four sons, all of whom are doing well. The father, who is a Chinese, was reported the event in the Peking and Shanghai papers, as according to Chinese law the mother of quadruplets may ask for a reward of ten taels for having borne so many children. The father of the quadruplets is a native of the country in which he was born. This has been the custom from the most ancient times.

A Chinaman in Java, Si Chim Kan, alias Jona, who succeeded in getting himself appointed by enlisting in the Netherlands Indian Army as a European, was sentenced at Samarang to sixteen months' imprisonment and a fine of 500 guilders. He had succeeded in obtaining a certificate of birth and baptism in the name of Jona, and the Assistant Resident of Salatiga, who had certified him as an inhabitant of that place, although he had never lived there.

On the 27th November, says the Singapore Free Press in its Netherlands India news, two Government officials at Bontang, in Java, were shot dead. By the firing of their rifles they came to the conclusion there was a wild pig in the jungle. In spite of the continuous firing and the fact that the pig would not leave the spot. One of the quarters entered the thicket with a rifle for the purpose of driving the animal out, but forgot to warn the other, and he, being a novice, fired at the animal, and he, being a novice, fired at the animal, and he, being a novice, fired at the animal.

The London Correspondent of the Singapore Free Press writes in connection with the election of the crews of some half-dozen vessels on the China station, that in the past few years there has been a marked increase in the number of Chinese seamen who have been employed in the Chinese fleet. This is due to the fact that the Chinese seamen are now being employed in the Chinese fleet.

The Shanghai Meteorological Society has the Mercury rain, been favored with an important meteorological report by Captain G. A. Lee, R.N., who is on duty at the station. It will be remembered that Captain Lee with his ship, the steamer Belphe, left Hongkong for Shanghai on the same date as the late steamer Belphe, and that he was on duty at the station.

The ranks of the old Shanghai Lancers, the Mercury says, being rapidly thinned out. Another of them, and one universally respected and highly regarded, was the late Mr. J. D. Humphreys, who was on duty at the station. He was a member of the old Shanghai Lancers, and he was on duty at the station.

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SPORTING NOTES.

The quarterly golf competition passed off very successfully. The weather was, with its intermittent showers, but the driving golfers were not at all deterred, and the match was played at an even pace, and on a fine day.

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